

Project Proposal

Proposal Title: Castle Creek Fuels Reduction and Revegetation

Proposal Number: 1414

DWR Region: Southeastern Region

Lead Agency: FFSL

County: Grand

Project Manager: Alison McCluskey

PM Phone: 4356133717

Regional Priority: High

Project Type: Terrestrial Habitat

Proposed Start Date: 06/01/2009

Project Location: Project area is located in the town of Castle Valley in Grand County. Treatment area is to the west of Castle Valley Dr. and south of Rim Rock Ln.

Project Description: Remove/masticate 7-acres of existing piles of downed Russian olive along Castle Creek and re-vegetate with native seed, pole plantings and waddle plantings.

Description of Problem/Need: Woody invasive species such as Russian olive and Tamarisk have dominated Castle Creek creating hazardous lateral fuels that contribute to increased fire danger and loss of native wildlife habitat. There is a need to re establish the native plant habitat like skunk bush and cottonwoods to create a more fire resistant and wildlife friendly ecosystem.

Objectives:

- Establish native vegetation along Castle Creek, a perennial stream in Castle Valley that feeds the Colorado River.
- Restore Castle Creek watershed for wildlife through planting native species to encourage positive regeneration.
- Reduce the wildfire potential by removing dead fuel from invasive species such as Russian Olive and tamarisk

Relevance to Strategic Plans: Within the WAP Riparian focus area. This project is associated with South Eastern Utah Tamarisk Partnership's Woody Invasive Species Plan, the Utah Strategic Tamarisk Management Plan, and the Castle Valley Community Wildfire Protection Plan from the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands.

Potential Risks:

- Castle Creek is in the Wildland-Urban Interface and overgrown, dead and dried out fuels pose a greater fire hazard.
- Prolonged revegetation could lessen our window of out competing potential invasive seedbeds in the soil

Proposed Methods: In October of 2008, 7 acres of Russian olive and tamarisk were cut and piled along the floodplain of Castle Creek. These piles need to be chipped or masticated to open up the areas for native plant re-vegetation. Chipping and mastication will occur in July 2009. Willow (Salix sp.) and cottonwood (Populus sp.) pole plantings and waddle plantings will be replanted along the banks of Castle Creek. A seed mix based of saltbush, skunk bush, Indian rice grass, globe mallow, sand drop, alkali sacaton and great basin wild rye will be broadcasted on the old floodplain of Castle Creek. All planting and seed will take place in Fall 2009.

Shapefile Name: HPD 2010\GIS Shape Files - Proposals\SER\1414.shp

Seed Source: GBRC

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date: 01/20/2009

Proposed NEPA Action:

Proposed Arch Action:

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

Monitoring Information: Specific photo plots are established, and each landowner will be maintaining any and all resprouting from the tamarisk and Russian olive. Landowners will assist in the seeding and planting of trees as well.

Grazing Management: Not Applicable

SPECIES BENEFITING

Mule Deer

Merriam's Wild Turkey

Black Bear

LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
Private	7
Total	7

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PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
DNR Watershed (FY10)	\$10,105.00		\$0.00
Other	\$5,000.00		\$0.00
FFSL	\$5,000.00		\$0.00
Totals	\$20,105.00		\$0.00

PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	In Kind/ Partner Contrib.
Personal Services		\$2,000.00	\$5,000.00
Contractual Services	\$1425/acre for 7 acres	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Seed (GBRC)	\$75/acre for 7 acres	\$525.00	\$0.00
Other	Cottonwood and willow poles	\$2,580.00	\$0.00
Totals		\$10,105.00	\$10,000.00

Project Map: